

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**AMEND AN EXISTING LEGAL ENTITY AGREEMENT
WITH EMOTIONAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION,
DOING BUSINESS AS SHARE! THE SELF-HELP AND RECOVERY EXCHANGE
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-09
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 1 AND 2)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to amend an existing Legal Entity Agreement with Emotional Health Association, doing business as SHARE! The Self-Help and Recovery Exchange, to implement an adult client-run Wellness Center located in the Skid Row area consistent with the Mental Health Services Act – Community Services and Supports Plan.

REQUEST

Approve and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute an Amendment to an existing Department of Mental Health (DMH) Legal Entity (LE) Agreement No. MH120157 with Emotional Health Association, dba SHARE! The Self-Help and Recovery Exchange (SHARE), for the implementation of an adult client-run Wellness Center under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) – Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan in the Skid Row area of Service Area 4 (Skid Row). The cost for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 is \$400,000 fully funded by MHSA CSS funds. The Amendment will be effective upon Board approval through June 30, 2009.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to the Agreement and establish as a new Maximum Contract Amount (MCA) the aggregate of the original Agreement and all amendments through and including this Amendment, provided that: 1) the County's total payments to the contractor under this Agreement for FY 2008-09 do not exceed an increase of 20 percent from the applicable Board-approved MCA; 2) any such increase is used to provide additional services or to reflect program and/or policy changes; 3) the Board of Supervisors has appropriated sufficient funds for all changes; 4) approval of County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or their designee, is obtained prior to any such Amendment; 5) the parties may, by written Amendment, mutually agree to reduce programs or services, without reference to the 20 percent limitation; and 6) the Director of Mental Health notifies the CEO's office of Agreement changes within 30 days after execution of each Amendment.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Board approval of the recommended actions will enable SHARE to implement an adult client-run Wellness Center in Skid Row consistent with the MHSA - CSS Plan approved by your Board on October 11, 2005.

This adult client-run Wellness Center is designed to offer options to clients who no longer need the intensive services offered by Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs or traditional adult outpatient services and who are ready to take increased responsibility for their own wellness and recovery. It will also help meet DMH's overall commitment to facilitate a comprehensive, coordinated network of community based services in Skid Row resulting from the recommendations made by the Skid Row Homeless Healthcare Initiative Mental Health Workgroup (SRHHI) and the DMH Skid Row Community Advisory Board (SRCAB), which includes City, County and Skid Row social service agencies.

As noted in the CSS Plan, client-run Wellness Centers are 100 percent staffed and managed by mental health consumers and, potentially, family members, with a wide array of self-help groups, peer-supported services, educational/recreational activities, and linkage services. In addition to furthering the goals of the MHSA, the recommended actions will fill a longstanding gap in the service delivery system by serving clients who are in advanced stages of recovery, thus offering a cost-effective alternative to ongoing maintenance visits at outpatient clinics. Also, development of the client-run Wellness Center will free up DMH's outpatient resources to those in need of that level of care. The ultimate goal of client-run Wellness Center is to reduce reliance on the mental health system by building a sustaining network of community-based support programs for adult clients no longer requiring traditional care.

CONTRACTOR

The focus of the State-approved MHSA CSS Plan is on recovery-oriented services for people who are diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness. In order to support the work of the FSPs, to provide options for clients no longer requiring intensive or traditional outpatient care, and to promote client-directed care and community integration, the County's CSS Plan included funding for client-run Wellness Centers. Since the submission and approval of the County's CSS plan, it has become increasingly evident that expanded client-run Wellness Center programming is critical to support clients as they advance in their recovery and to provide a cost-effective alternative for clients who currently utilize traditional clinic-based maintenance services.

In April 2007 your Board approved the implementation of a Crisis Resolution Services (CRS) Program at the Downtown Mental Health Center. The CRS Program also included provisions for a client-run Wellness Center. Program design and staffing patterns for this client-run Wellness Center are based on the needs, resources, and cultural/linguistic composition of the community served. Components will include self-help groups, peer support services, social/recreational activities, medication evaluation and support services, integrated services and supports for co-occurring disorders, physical health screening/assistance with accessing physical health care, and healthy living and health management activities. The client-run Wellness Center will also provide linkage to other services such as employment, education, housing, benefits maintenance, and short-term or crisis mental health services.

There is no increase in net County cost. The FY 2008-09 cost for operating the adult client-run Wellness Center is \$400,000, funded entirely with MHSA CSS funds, and is included in DMH's FY 2008-09 budget request

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On October 10, 2007, DMH issued Request for Services (RFS) No. 15 to qualified bidders on DMH's MHSA Master Agreement list indicating an interest in providing client-run Wellness Center on their Statement of Qualifications. DMH sent agencies who expressed interest in providing Wellness Centers services a notice of the release of the RFS along with a compact disc of the RFS and invited them to the Mandatory Proposers' Conference, which was held on October 30, 2007. DMH received three client-run Wellness Center proposals from three agencies by the deadline of November 27, 2007.

During October 2007, DMH began soliciting volunteer reviewers for MHSA funding proposals. A total of six ethnically diverse individuals who play different roles in the local mental health system (e.g., family member, consumer, staff of DMH, and other County departments) evaluated proposals for the client-run Wellness Center in Skid Row. The review panel assessed and scored proposals individually and then met to discuss and determine consensus scores for each. Simultaneously, review of program budgets and reference contacts were conducted by DMH staff. Total scores were then reviewed by DMH's Executive Management Team, which finalized the recommendation of the award for the adult client-run Wellness Center in Skid Row.

Neither of the two agencies not awarded a contract requested a Contractor Selection Review; therefore, no appeals are pending.

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MK:RFS:RFS #15:BL:Fact Sheet RFS 15 SHARE BL